MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS

ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS
MEPA/NEPA CHECKLIST

MISSION. Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, through its employees and citizen commission, provides for the stewardship of the fish, wildlife, parks, and recreational resources of Montana, while contributing to the quality of life for present and future generations

All Montanans have the right to live in a clean and healthful environment. This brief environmental analysis is intended to provide an evaluation of the likely impacts to the human environment from proposed actions of the project cited below. This analysis will help Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks to fulfill its oversight obligations and satisfy rules and regulations of both the Montana Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The project sponsor has a responsibility to ensure that all impacts have been addressed. Some effects may be negative; others may be positive. Please provide a discussion for each section. If no impacts are likely, be sure to discuss the reasoning that led to your determination.

PART I. PROPOSED ACTION DESCRIPTION

1. Type of proposed action:

Development	_____
Renovation	_____
Maintenance	_____
Land Acquisition	_____
Equipment Acquisition	_____
Other (Describe)	**Fuels Reduction for Wildfire Prevention**

2. If appropriate, agency responsible for the proposed action:
   Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

3. Name, address phone number and E-mail address of project sponsor:
   Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
   Region One Parks Division
   490 N. Meridian Road
   Kalispell, MT 59901
   Phone: (406) 751-4574 E-mail: dlandstrom@mt.gov

4. Name of project:
McGregor Lake Fishing Access Fuels Reduction Project

5. If applicable:

Estimated construction/commencement date: **July 1, 2007**

Estimated completion date: **July 31, 2007**

Current status of project design (% complete): **100%**

6. Location affected by proposed action (county, range and township):
Unit #1 Flathead County Sec. 01, T26N, R26W
Unit #2 Flathead County Sec. 09, T26N, R25W

7. Project size: estimate the numbers of acres that would be directly affected that are currently:

(a) Developed:
residential..... ___ acres
industrial..... ___ acres

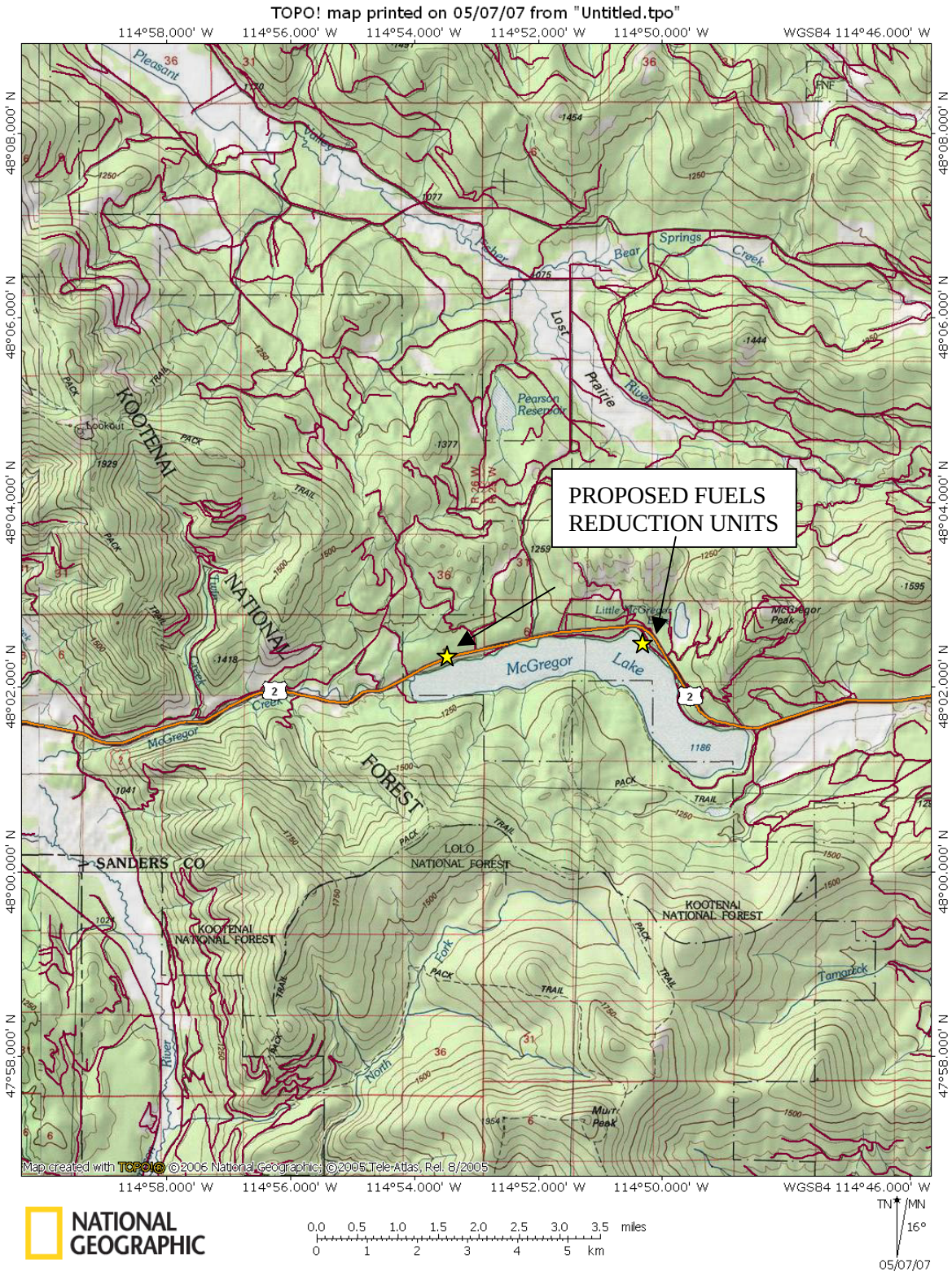
(b) Open Space/Woodlands/
Recreation.....**10.06** acres

(c) Wetlands/Riparian
Areas..... ___ acres

(d) Floodplain..... ___ acres

(e) Productive:
irrigated cropland..... ___ acres
dry cropland..... ___ acres
forestry..... ___ acres
rangeland..... ___ acres
other..... ___ acres

8. Map/site plan: attach an original 8½" x 11" or larger section of the most recent USGS 7.5' series topographic map showing the location and boundaries of the area that would be affected by the proposed action. A different map scale may be substituted if more appropriate or if required by agency rule. If available, a site plan should also be attached.


TOPO! map printed on 05/07/07 from "Untitled.tpo"
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WGS84 114°46.000' W
48°08.000' N
48°06.000' N
48°04.000' N
48°02.000' N
48°00.000' N
47°58.000' N
PROPOSED FUELS REDUCTION UNITS
McGregor Lake
Little McGregor Creek
McGregor Peak
Pearson Reservoir
Lost Prairie River
Bear Springs Creek
KOOTENAI NATIONAL FOREST
LOLO NATIONAL FOREST
SANDERS CO
Tamarack
Murr Peak
Lookout
Map created with TOPO! ©2006 National Geographic; ©2005 Tele Atlas, Rel. 6/2005
NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC
0.0 0.5 1.0 1.5 2.0 2.5 3.0 3.5 miles
0 1 2 3 4 5 km
TN MN
16°
05/07/07

9. Narrative summary of the proposed action or project including the benefits and purpose of the proposed action:

Proposed Action
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) proposes to conduct fuels reduction work on two timbered parcels on department lands on McGregor Lake in Flathead County. This project would be a cooperative effort with the Northwest Regional Resource Conservation and Development Wildland Urban Interface Project (RC&D) and the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation.

Location
The proposal is to treat two parcels of FWP lands on McGregor Lake in Flathead County. Parcel 1 is located in Section 01, T26N, R26W. Specifically, the proposal is for the eastern boundary of this FWP parcel. Parcel 2 is located in Section 09, T26N, R25W. Specifically, the proposal is for the western boundary of this FWP parcel. Both project areas include approximately five acres of treatment area and are both located in the urban wildland interface.

Need For Action
The lands involved in this proposal are located within the FWP management area known as the Thompson Chain of Lakes Fishing Access Site. This area, which includes 1,085 acres on McGregor Lake, is managed for recreation with primitive camping facilities. On McGregor Lake, FWP parcels are intermingled with residential development. The two proposed parcels are areas that border residential developments, and accumulations of downed woody fuels and ladder fuels are present. These accumulations are situated between designated campsites and developed residential areas.

FWP is directed to manage the lands on McGregor Lake under the guidelines of the Thompson Chain of Lakes Management Plan Update, approved by the FWP commission in 2006. The plan provides the following goals and action items regarding forest management at the site.

GOAL: Manage TCL's forests to promote stand health, species diversity, and wildlife habitat, and to enhance public safety from hazardous trees and wildfire.

Objective:
Manage TCL's forests for forest health, quality and diversity of fish and wildlife habitats, and fuels mitigation according to recognized defensible space criteria.

Action Items:
Monitor and prioritize forest management projects for the purpose of reducing fire risk to adjacent landowners and for providing wildlife habitat.

Implementation:
Continually monitor forest health, identifying areas of concern based on the following criteria:

- Fire risk to adjacent landowners.
- Overall forest vitality.
- Diversity of wildlife habitat, including but not limited to white-tailed deer thermal cover, snag recruitment, and mature forest stands.
- Shoreline and stream protection for fish habitat.

Objectives and Desired Outcomes and Conditions of the Proposed Actions

State of Montana Water Quality Best Management Practices (BMP) and Streamside Management Zone (SMZ) guidelines will be followed when accomplishing all hazardous fuels reduction practices.

Thinning

Thinning would be utilized to:

1) Create space between tree crowns to reduce the chances of a running crown fire. The amount of separation between tree canopies will be determined by steepness of slope. On the average this requires at least 10 feet (flat to gentle slope/0–20%); 20 feet (moderate slope/21-40%); or 30 feet (very steep/over 41%).

2) Treat fuels between the ground and crowns of larger trees by removing ladder fuels to reduce the chances of a ground fire from becoming a crown fire.

   Noncommercial thinning for fire hazard fuels reduction is not a standard thinning to enhance the volume of the remaining trees.

   Best management practices will be followed for hazard reduction thinning in streamside management zones. FWP and Montana Department of Natural Resources & Conservation will be involved in decisions regarding thinning within streamside management zones.

Pruning

Tree pruning would be prescribed:

1) For defensible space trees.
2) In conjunction with thinning.

   Pruning of all residual trees (trees left after thinning) will be accomplished by pruning 9-15 feet above ground level or to a height of 1/3 the total height of the tree, whichever is less. This means cutting all branches off the bole of the tree, separating the branch at the bole, and not leaving any branch stub longer than 3 inches.

   Pruning can occur within riparian or upland areas. Best Management Practices will be followed.

Downed Woody Fuels Cleanup

This would apply for 1) removal of slash created by thinning and pruning, 2) existing slash, and 3) cleanup of downed woody materials on the forest floor not created by thinning or pruning, but naturally occurring. Downed Woody Fuels Cleanup Specifications: All woody debris other than duff and litter will be picked up and either piled by hand or machine for later burning, or chipped in place with chips spread across the forest floor in an even manner, or taken offsite to be disposed of. All downed woody debris is defined as any fuels greater than 2 inches in diameter at the large end and longer than 6 feet in length. Up to 50 pieces exceeding this size may be left per acre.

Handpiling

Handpiles would be located to protect residual trees from scorch (if burned) or from other damage. All piles would be 100% disposed of by burning, chipping, or by hauling slash offsite.

Chipping/Mulching Specification

Where chipping is utilized, all materials greater than 2 inches would be chipped or mulched. Debris would be disposed of through a combination of piling in concentrations that imitate decaying logs, and spreading to no more than 2 inches deep.

Pile Burning
Burning of slash piles would be done in such a way that will completely consume or dispose of all material contained in each pile.

10. Description and analysis of reasonable alternatives (including the required no-action alternative) to the proposed action, whenever alternatives are reasonably available and prudent to consider, and a comparison of the alternatives with the proposed action/preferred alternative:

Alternative A - No Action
Under the no-action alternative, fuels reduction work and defensible space work would not be initiated on the two subject parcels on McGregor Lake. This alternative would leave existing forest conditions intact and would not increase crown spacing or reduce downed and woody debris from the project areas. This alternative would prevent ground disturbance resulting from slash treatments such as burning and would thus result in fewer noxious weed issues. This alternative would also fail to address defensible space in the interface between these two recreation parcels and neighboring residential areas. The outcome could potentially result in higher risk to residential areas resulting from wildfire that originates on FWP lands.

Alternative B - Treatment of Unit 1
Under this alternative FWP would treat Unit 1 only. This 3.9-acre unit is the western-most unit in the proposed project area. This unit borders residential development on Violet Bay Road and is upwind from these homes during prevailing westerly winds. The parcel is characterized by a large volume of downed and woody debris consisting mainly of lodgepole pine. This proposed work in Unit 1 would entail the use of masticating equipment to grind downed lodgepole pine in place, thus eliminating the need for slash burning. Treatment will be primarily aimed at creating defensible space between campsites on the eastern edge of the FWP property and residential developments. Streamside management zone practices would be utilized on the portion of this unit that borders McGregor Lake. Roadside thinning along .65 miles of access road would reduce heavily stocked Douglas fir stands within 50 feet of the roadside to reduce fire danger. These stands are characterized by small-diameter thickets of Douglas fir saplings. Finally, a .16-acre fuel break would be created at the end of the small service road that provides access to McGregor Lake in the center of the treatment unit as a further fire preventions step. Please see Appendix A for a map of this unit.

Proposed Fuels Reduction Unit 1

Alternative C - Treatment of Unit 2

Under this alternative FWP would treat Unit 2 only. This 6.16-acre site is the eastern-most unit in the proposed project area. This unit borders residential development on private property to northwest. The parcel is characterized by mature ponderosa pine and Douglas fir stands, with dense thickets of Douglas fir and ponderosa pine saplings. Ladder fuels are prevalent in this treatment area, and treatment would be aimed at reducing fire danger. This alternative would entail thinning of small diameter saplings to increase crown spacing and reduce ladder fuels. This unit is located between designated campsites in the Thompson Chain of Lakes fishing access and private residential developments. Prevailing winds are from the west in this unit, so wildfire danger is slightly less than Unit 1, but still present. Please see Appendix A for a map of this unit.

Proposed Fuels Reduction Unit 2

Alternative D - Treatment of Unit 1 and Unit 2

Under this alternative FWP would treat both Units 1 and 2. This alternative allows FWP to take maximum advantage of grant monies that exist to fund fuels reduction work by the RD & C. Due to economy of scale, the project would be more efficient if both units are treated than to conduct the work through separate mobilizations. It is also unclear if grant monies will be available for future projects. This alternative will increase the amount of acreage on which FWP will need to address noxious weed issues.

11. Listing of each local, state, or federal agency that has overlapping or additional jurisdiction:

(a) Permits		
	Permit:	Date Filed:

(b) Funding	
Agency Name:	Funding Amount:

(c) Other Overlapping or Additional Jurisdictional Responsibilities	
Agency Name: Montana State Historical Preservation Office	Type of Responsibility: Archeological & Cultural Site Protection
Department of Natural Resources and Conservation	Wildfire response.

12. List of agencies consulted during preparation of this environmental checklist:

MT Department of Natural Resources and Conservation
MT Fish, Wildlife & Parks
- Parks Division
- Wildlife Division
- Fisheries Division
- Legal Bureau

Montana State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)
Montana Department of Commerce – Tourism

13. Name of preparer(s) of this environmental checklist:
David Landstrom
Region One Parks Program Manager
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

14. Date submitted:
June 6, 2007

PART II. ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT. At the bottom of this "Land Resources" checklist, provide a narrative description and evaluation of the cumulative and secondary effects on land resources. Even if you checked "none" in the table, explain how you came to that conclusion. Consider the immediate, short-term effects of the action as well as the long-term effects. Attach additional pages of narrative if needed.

1. LAND RESOURCES **Will the proposed action result in:**	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
a. Soil instability or changes in geologic substructure?			X		Y	1a
b. Disruption, displacement, erosion, compaction, moisture loss, or over-covering of soil, which would reduce productivity or fertility?			X		Y	1b
c. Destruction, covering or modification of any unique geologic or physical features?		X				
d. Changes in siltation, deposition or erosion patterns that may modify the channel of a river or stream or the bed or shore of a lake?			X		Y	1d
e. Exposure of people or property to earthquakes, landslides, ground failure, or other natural hazard?		X				
f. Other		X				

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION AND EVALUATION:

1a, b, and d: Timber removal will be done utilizing masticating and hand sawing techniques to minimize ground disturbance, compaction, erosion, and siltation. Slash burning will be minimal to nonexistent to reduce impacts on vegetation and soils. Any disturbed areas will be reseeded with annual grasses to reduce erosion and compaction. Any invading noxious weeds will be managed through the Regional Noxious Weed Program.

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT. At the bottom of this "Air" checklist, provide a narrative description and evaluation of the cumulative and secondary effects on air resources. Even if you checked "none" in the table, explain how you came to that conclusion. Consider the immediate, short-term effects of the action as well as the long-term effects. Attach additional pages of narrative if needed.

2. AIR **Will the proposed action result in:**	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
a. Emission of air pollutants or deterioration of ambient air quality? (Also see 13 (c))			X		Y	2a
b. Creation of objectionable odors?			X		Y	2b
c. Alteration of air movement, moisture, or temperature patterns or any change in climate, either locally or regionally?		X				
d. Adverse effects on vegetation, including crops, due to increased emissions of pollutants?		X				
e. Any discharge that will conflict with federal or state air quality regs?		X				
f. Other		X				

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION AND EVALUATION:

2a and b: Machinery used during the timber removal project will create noise and emissions. Care will be taken to limit working hours to minimize disturbance to adjacent neighbors. Burning of slash will result in temporary effects on air quality. All burning will occur during periods when conditions are suitable for good air dispersion. Chipping will be utilized for the majority of slash treatment.

2e. All applicable air shed or burning permits will be acquired before any burning is conducted.

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT. At the bottom of this "Water" checklist, provide a narrative description and evaluation of the cumulative and secondary effects on water resources. Even if you checked "none" in the table, explain how you came to that conclusion. Consider the immediate, short-term effects as well as the long-term effects. Attach additional pages of narrative if needed.

3. WATER	IMPACT					
Will the proposed action result in:	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant	Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
a. Discharge into surface water or any alteration of surface water quality including but not limited to temperature, dissolved oxygen or turbidity?		X				
b. Changes in drainage patterns or the rate and amount of surface runoff?		X				
c. Alteration of the course or magnitude of floodwater or other flows?		X				
d. Changes in the amount of surface water in any water body or creation of a new water body?		X				
e. Exposure of people or property to water related hazards such as flooding?		X				
f. Changes in the quality of groundwater?		X				
g. Changes in the quantity of groundwater?		X				
h. Increase in risk of contamination of surface or groundwater?		X				
i. Effects on any existing water right or reservation?		X				
j. Effects on other water users as a result of any alteration in surface or groundwater quality?		X				
k. Effects on other users as a result of any alteration in surface or groundwater quantity?		X				
l. Effects to a designated floodplain?		X				
m. Any discharge that will affect federal or state water quality regulations?		X				
n. Other:		X				

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION AND EVALUATION:

This project is anticipated to have no impact on water resources. Stream management practices will be followed, eliminating any work within 100 feet of McGregor Lake.

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT. At the bottom of this "Vegetation" checklist, provide a narrative description and evaluation of the cumulative and secondary effects on vegetative resources. Even if you checked "none" in the table, explain how you came to that conclusion. Consider the immediate, short-term effects as well as the long-term effects. Attach additional pages of narrative if needed.

4. VEGETATION	IMPACT					
Will the proposed action result in:	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant	Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
a. Changes in the diversity, productivity or abundance of plant species (including trees, shrubs, grass, crops, and aquatic plants)?			X		N	3a
b. Alteration of a plant community?			X		N	3b
c. Adverse effects on any unique, rare, threatened, or endangered species?		X				
d. Reduction in acreage or productivity of any agricultural land?		X				
e. Establishment or spread of noxious weeds?			X		Y	3e
f. Effects to wetlands or prime and unique farmland?		X				
g. Other:		X				

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION AND EVALUATION:

4a and b: One of the goals of this project is reduce the amount of overstocked Douglas fir and ponderosa pine thickets. The impacts are considered positive, as this will reduce dense areas to more historic levels, thereby improving the health and vigor of remaining trees. This will make them more resistant to insect and disease infestations and reduce the risk of stand replacement fire. With the reduction of overhead cover, existing undergrowth is anticipated to regenerate. Where little undergrowth is present, opened, disturbed areas will be reseeded with native species.

4e: There is a possibility for the introduction of noxious weeds in disturbed soils. Disturbed soils will be reseeded with native vegetation and monitored.

The area is managed under Region One's noxious weed management program, and any occurrence of noxious weeds will be treated chemically, biologically, or mechanically under that program.

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT. At the bottom of this "Fish/Wildlife" checklist, provide a narrative description and evaluation of the cumulative and secondary effects on fish and wildlife resources. Even if you checked "none" in the table, explain how you came to that conclusion. Consider the immediate, short-term effects as well as the long-term effects. Attach additional pages of narrative if needed**.**

5. FISH/WILDLIFE Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
a. Deterioration of critical fish or wildlife habitat?		X				
b. Changes in the diversity or abundance of game animals or bird species?		X				
c. Changes in the diversity or abundance of nongame species?			X		N	5a
d. Introduction of new species into an area?		X				
e. Creation of a barrier to the migration or movement of animals?		X				
f. Adverse effects on any unique, rare, threatened, or endangered species?		X				
g. Increase in conditions that stress wildlife populations or limit abundance (including harassment, legal or illegal harvest or other human activity)?		X				
h. Adverse effects to threatened/endangered species or their habitat?		X				
i. Introduction or exportation of any species not presently or historically occurring in the affected location?		X				
j. Other:		X				

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION AND EVALUATION:

A minor alteration of bird and small mammal habitat will occur as a result of this project. Both treatment units are very small and located in areas of larger, similar habitat types, thus limiting the impact.

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT. At the bottom of this "Noise/Electrical Effects" checklist, provide a narrative description and evaluation of the cumulative and secondary effects of noise and electrical activities. Even if you checked "none" in the table, explain how you came to that conclusion. Consider the immediate, short-term effects as well as the long-term effects. Attach additional pages of narrative if needed.

6. NOISE/ELECTRICAL EFFECTS Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
a. Increases in existing noise levels?			X		Y	6a
b. Exposure of people to severe or nuisance noise levels?			X		Y	6b
c. Creation of electrostatic or electromagnetic effects that could be detrimental to human health or property?		X				
d. Interference with radio or television reception and operation?		X				
e. Other:		X				

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION AND EVALUATION:

6a and b: Machinery used during the timber removal project will create noise and emissions. Workers will be exposed to intermittent noise levels that will require use of hearing protection. In addition, care will be taken to limit working hours to minimize disturbance to adjacent neighbors.

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT. At the bottom of this "Land Use" checklist, provide a narrative description and evaluation of the cumulative and secondary effects on land use. Even if you checked "none" in the table, explain how you came to that conclusion. Attach additional pages of narrative if needed. Consider the immediate, short-term effects as well as the long-term effects.

7. LAND USE Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
a. Alteration of or interference with the productivity or profitability of the existing land use of an area?		X				
b. A conflict with a designated natural area or area of unusual scientific or educational importance?		X				
c. A conflict with any existing land use whose presence would constrain or potentially prohibit the proposed action?		X				
d. Adverse effects on, or relocation of, residences?		X				
e. Compliance with existing land policies for land use, transportation, and open space?		X				
f. Increased traffic hazards, traffic volume, or speed limits or effects on existing transportation facilities or patterns of movement of people and goods?		X				
g. Other:		X				

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION AND EVALUATION:

There are no anticipated impacts on land use in the project area as a result of this proposal.

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT. At the bottom of this "Risk/Health Hazards" checklist, provide a narrative description and evaluation of the cumulative and secondary effects of risks and health hazards. Even if you checked "none" in the table, explain how you came to that conclusion. Consider the immediate, short-term effects of the action as well as the long-term effects. Attach additional pages of narrative if needed.

8. RISK/HEALTH HAZARDS Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
a. Risk of an explosion or release of hazardous substances (including, but not limited to oil, pesticides, chemicals, or radiation) in the event of an accident or other forms of disruption?		X				
b. Effects on existing emergency response or emergency evacuation plan or create need for a new plan?		X				
c. Creation of any human health hazard or potential hazard?			X		Y	8c
d. Disturbance to any sites with known or potential deposits of hazardous materials?		X				
e. The use of any chemical toxicants?		X				
f. Other:		X				

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION AND EVALUATION:

8c. There will be a temporary human hazard associated with equipment operations near designated recreation areas. FWP will close these areas to public entry while equipment is being operated.

This proposal is anticipated to reduce the potential for property-threatening forest fires to residential dwellings immediately adjacent to the project area.

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT. At the bottom of this "Community Impact" checklist, provide a narrative description and evaluation of the cumulative and secondary effects on the community. Even if you checked "none" in the above table, explain how you came to that conclusion. Consider the immediate, short-term effects as well as the long-term effects. Attach additional pages of narrative if needed.

9. COMMUNITY IMPACT Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
a. Alteration of the location, distribution, density, or growth rate of the human population of an area?		X				
b. Alteration of the social structure of a community?		X				
c. Alteration of the level or distribution of employment or community or personal income?			X		N	9c
d. Changes in industrial or commercial activity?			X		N	9d
e. Increased traffic hazards or effects on existing transportation facilities or patterns of movement of people and goods?			X		Y	9e
f. Other:		X				

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION AND EVALUATION:

9c & d. This project will have a slight, positive effect on employment and commercial activity. Work will be conducted by contract, thus providing economic opportunity.

9e. There will be a minor and temporary alteration of traffic flow and camping opportunity within the project area.

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT. At the bottom of this "Public Services/Taxes/Utilities" checklist, provide a narrative description and evaluation of the cumulative and secondary effects on public services, taxes and utilities. Even if you checked "none" in the table, explain how you came to that conclusion. Consider the immediate, short-term effects as well as the long-term effects. Attach additional pages of narrative if needed.

10. PUBLIC SERVICES/TAXES/UTILITIES Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
a. An effect upon, or result in a need for new or altered, governmental services in any of the following areas: fire or police protection, schools, parks/recreational facilities, roads or other public maintenance, water supply, sewer or septic systems, solid waste disposal, health, or other governmental services? If so, specify:		X				
b. Effects on the local or state tax base and revenues?		X				
c. A need for new facilities or substantial alterations of any of the following utilities: electric power, natural gas, other fuel supply or distribution systems, or communications?		X				
d. Increased used of any energy source?		X				
e. Other.		X				
Additional information requested:						
f. Define projected revenue sources.	Northwest Regional Resource Conservation and Development Wildland Urban Interface Project (RC&D)					
g. Define projected maintenance costs.						

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION AND EVALUATION:

10f. Annual maintenance costs will be determined by the extent of any invasive weeds in disturbed areas. All areas could be treated in two to three days by one to two seasonal staff. If treatment is necessary, the projected cost is estimated to be $550 per year for chemicals and labor in the first two years, with costs decreasing in subsequent years as native species regenerate and become dominant.

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT. At the bottom of this "Aesthetics/Recreation" checklist, provide a narrative description and evaluation of the cumulative and secondary effects on aesthetics & recreation. Even if you checked "none" in the table, explain how you came to that conclusion. Consider the immediate, short-term effects as well as the long-term effects. Attach additional pages of narrative if needed.

11. AESTHETICS/RECREATION Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
a. Alteration of any scenic vista or creation of an aesthetically offensive site or effect that is open to public view?			X			
b. Alteration of the aesthetic character of a community or neighborhood?			X			
c. Alteration of the quality or quantity of recreational/tourism opportunities and settings? (Attach Tourism Report)		X				
d. Adverse effects to any designated or proposed wild or scenic rivers, trails or wilderness areas?		X				
e. Other:		X				

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION AND EVALUATION:

Treatment Unit 1 will be dealing primarily with downed lodge pole pine and roadside thinning; the views from within the site or from neighboring residential areas will not be altered. Treatment Unit 2 will result in greater visibility distances through forest stands, but will not affect scenic vistas. There will be temporary visual alterations typical with those from forestry operations, but these will be mitigated over time as revegetation of disturbed areas occurs.

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT. At the bottom of this "Cultural/historical Resources" checklist, provide a narrative description and evaluation of the cumulative and secondary effects on cultural/historical resources. Even if you checked "none" in the table, explain how you came to that conclusion. Consider the immediate, short-term effects as well as the long-term effects. Attach additional pages of narrative if needed.

12. CULTURAL/HISTORICAL RESOURCES	IMPACT					
Will the proposed action result in:	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant	Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
a. Destruction or alteration of any site, structure or object of prehistoric historic, or paleontological importance?		X				
b. Physical changes that would affect unique cultural values?		X				
c. Effects on existing religious or sacred uses of a site or area?		X				
d. Adverse effects to historic or cultural resources?		X				
e. Other:		X				

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION AND EVALUATION:

This proposed project is designed to mitigate recent changes in forest conditions (i.e., dense regeneration following timber harvest and exclusion of fire) that resulted from previous forest management activities. Sites will not be altered in such a way as to damage any historic resources that may be present in the project areas.

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT. At the bottom of this "Summary Evaluation of Significance" checklist, provide a narrative description and evaluation of the cumulative and secondary effects. Even if you have checked "none" in the table, explain how you came to that conclusion. Consider the immediate, short-term effects as well as the long-term effects. Attach additional pages of narrative if needed.

13. SUMMARY EVALUATION OF SIGNIFICANCE Will the proposed action, considered as a whole:	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
a. Have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? (A project or program may result in impacts on two or more separate resources, which create a significant effect when considered together or in total.)		X				
b. Involve potential risks or adverse effects, which are uncertain but extremely hazardous if they were to occur?			X		Y	13b
c. Potentially conflict with the substantive requirements of any local, state, or federal law, regulation, standard or formal plan?		X				
d. Establish a precedent or likelihood that future actions with significant environmental impacts will be proposed?		X				
e. Generate substantial debate or controversy about the nature of the impacts that would be created?		X				
f. Have organized opposition or generate substantial public controversy?		X				
Additional information requested:						
g. List any federal or state permits required.						

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION AND EVALUATION:

13b: Timber removal is hazardous. Precautions will be taken to close roads during the project to prevent vehicles from entering. Signs will be prominently displayed, informing visitors of the project and hazardous conditions. Areas will be closed to public access while work is being performed and machinery is operated or if conditions are deemed unsafe.

PART III. ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST CONCLUSION SECTION

1. Discuss the cumulative and secondary effects of this project as a whole.

The cumulative effects of this proposal are anticipated to be positive. In both treatment areas the effect would be a reduction of overstocked Douglas fir and ponderosa pine stands and a reduction in the volume of dead and down fuels. The anticipated result is a reduction in potential for damage to neighboring properties as a result of wildfire. The secondary effect would be an improvement in stand condition as a result of reduced intercompetition resulting from dense thickets of conifer saplings. Ground disturbance would provide an opportunity for increased spread of noxious weeds, while simultaneously encouraging native plant regeneration. Noxious weed spread would be mitigated through the application of herbicides by FWP staff.

Due to the small amount of acreage (10.06 acres of 1,085 total) the alteration of wildlife habitat is considered to be minimal. Additionally, the impacts to aesthetic qualities would be extremely minimal. Best management practices would be utilized to limit ground disturbance and subsequent clean-up efforts.

Finally, the duration of the project is considered to be short. FWP estimates that contractors would be able to treat approximately two acres per day, making the total project duration approximately five days in length, spread over a two-week period. Impacts to recreationists and neighboring homeowners would be minimal.

2. Based on the significance criteria evaluated in this environmental checklist (Part II), is an EIS required?

YES _____

NO X

If an EIS is not required, explain why the current checklist level of review is appropriate.

The Cumulative effects of this proposal are anticipated to have a positive impact on the human environment by reducing the potential for damage to private residential property resulting from forest fire on adjoining FWP lands. FWP also predicts a positive effect on forest conditions within the project area through reduction in overstocked Douglas fire and ponderosa pine stands.

3. Describe the public involvement for this project.

Scoping has been conducted with neighbors who border the project area to evaluate opinions or concerns regarding this proposal. In 2005, FWP was approached by two parties who own residential property adjacent to treatment Unit 1 to seek permission to create fuels breaks on FWP lands along shared boundaries.

4. What was the duration of the public comment period?

The public comment period will be 30 days, from June 6 through July 6, 2007.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Affected Environment – The aspects of the human environment that may change as a result of an agency action.

Alternative – A different approach to achieve the same objective or result as the proposed action.

Categorical Exclusion – A level of environmental review for agency action that does not individually, collectively, or cumulatively cause significant impacts to the human environment, as determined by rulemaking or programmatic review, and for which an EA or EIS is not required.

Cumulative Impacts – Impacts to the human environment that, individually, may be minor for a specific project, but, when considered in relation to other actions, may result in significant impacts.

Direct Impacts – Primary impacts that have a direct cause and effect relationship with a specific action, i.e., they occur at the same time and place as the action that causes the impact.

Environmental Assessment (EA) – The appropriate level of environmental review for actions that either do not significantly affect the human environment or for which the agency is uncertain whether an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is required.

Environmental Assessment Checklist – An EA checklist is a standard form of an EA, developed by an agency for actions that generally produce minimal impacts.

Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) – A comprehensive evaluation of the impacts to the human environment that likely would result from an agency action or reasonable alternatives to that action. An EIS also serves a public disclosure of agency decision-making. Typically, an EIS is prepared in two steps. The Draft EIS is a preliminary detailed written statement that facilitates public review and comment. The Final EIS is a completed, written statement that includes a summary of major conclusions and supporting information from the Draft EIS, responses to substantive comments received on the Draft EIS, a list of all comments on the Draft EIS and any revisions made to the Draft EIS, and an explanation of the agency's reasons for its decision.

Environmental Review – An evaluation, prepared in compliance with the provisions of MEPA and the MEPA Model Rules, of the impacts to the human environment that may result as a consequence of an agency action.

Human Environment – Those attributes, including but not limited to biological, physical, social, economic, cultural, and aesthetic factors that interrelate to form the environment.

Long-Term Impact – An impact, which lasts well beyond the period of the initial project.

Mitigated Environmental Assessment – The appropriate level of environmental review for actions that normally would require an EIS, except that the state agency can impose designs, enforceable controls, or stipulations to reduce the otherwise significant impacts to below the level of significance. A mitigated EA must demonstrate that: (1) all impacts have been identified, (2) all impacts can be mitigated below the level of significance, and (3) no significant impact is likely to occur.

Mitigation – An enforceable measure(s), designed to reduce or prevent undesirable effects or impacts of the proposed action.

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) – The federal counterpart of MEPA that applies only to federal actions.

No Action Alternative – An alternative, required by the MEPA Model Rules for purposes of analysis, that describes the agency action that would result in the least change to the human environment.

Public Participation – The process by which an agency includes interested and affected individuals, organizations, and agencies in decision making.

Record of Decision – Concise public notice that announces the agency's decision, explains the reason for that decision, and describes any special conditions related to implementation of the decision.

Scoping – The process, including public participation, that an agency uses to define the scope of the environmental review.

Secondary Impacts – Impacts to the human environment that are indirectly related to the agency action, i.e., they are induced by a direct impact and occur at a later time or distance from the triggering action.

Short-Term Impact – An impact directly associated with a project that is of relatively short duration.

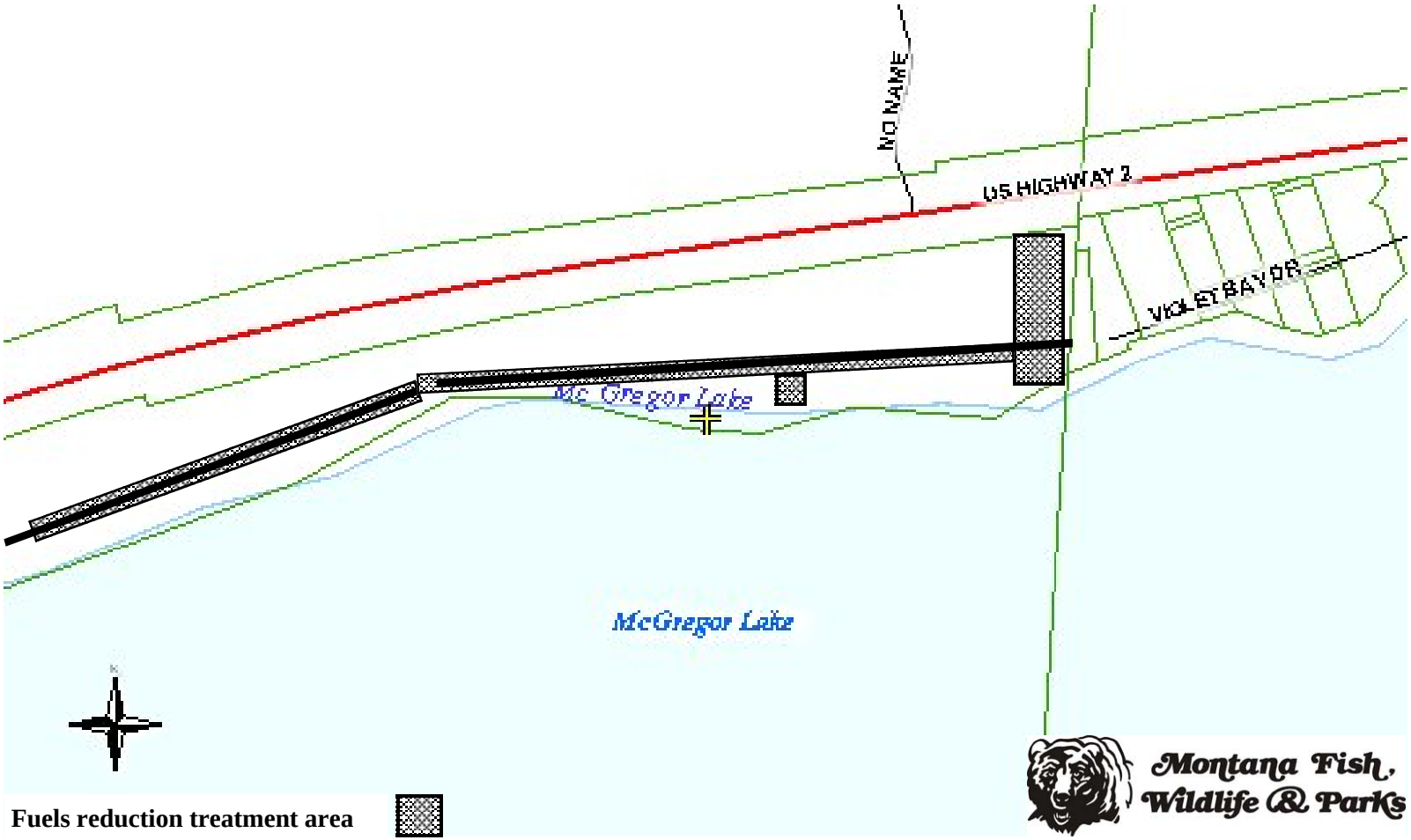
Significance – The process of determining whether the impacts of a proposed action are serious enough to warrant the preparation of an EIS. An impact may be adverse, beneficial or both. If none of the adverse impacts are significant, an EIS is not required.

Supplemental Review – A modification of a previous environmental review document (EA or EIS) based on changes in the proposed action, the discovery of new information, or the need for additional evaluation.

Tiering – Preparing an environmental review by focusing specifically on narrow scope of issues because the broader scope of issues was adequately addressed in previous environmental review document(s) that may be incorporated by reference.

Appendix A

FUELS REDUCTION UNIT 1
MCGREGOR LAKE - 3.9 ACRES



FUELS REDUCTION UNIT 2
MCGREGOR LAKE - 6.16 ACRES